"Boy of East Side Street Is Quicker and Brighter Than Lads in Good Homes

Surrounded by Right Influences He'll Grow Into Desirable Citizen, Says Mornay Williams, Head of Child Labor Committee.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall. | hoy's father. Eight men sat and de-The problem of the child is one of the greatest, if not the very greatest of the social problems of to-day, and we are not solving it with anything like adequacy. Our bost and brightest boys are turning tate criminals, instead of geniuses, colely through our own social ig-

That is the opinion of a man who

boy eriminal, convicted of such hendish crucities. But isolated cases like his only prove the rule. Most boys and girls are born with at least equal chances of developing into good men and women, or the reverse."

Causes of Delinquency. Then how do you account for the large amount of juvenile delinquency, particularly in the big cities?" I asked.

There are three main causes, though

There are three main causes, though each overlaps, the athers," said Mr. Williams. The first and most important I have called motherlessness. "By far the greater part of the children filling the juvenile courts are those who have not had their fair share of attention from their

Storal sense of the word. They even have both parents living. But they have been deprived of moth-

shiftless. In that case, the mother has to become the bread-winner of the famin and whether she goes out to work as scrub-woman or factory shand, she is, nevertheless, away from her little ones for most of their waking hours. Then, along with the lack of mothorly attention somes the evil of the rewied two or three-room home. It is not crowded by the family alone either. but by the inevitable cheap lodger Often this man works at night and has so sleep in the daytime. Such a home offers no place for children to play, especially for boys. Of course they are sorced into the streets.

Fascination of the Street. That is the third contributory cause to child delinquency, the life in the streets. Unless one has had the experience, or possesses a vivid imagina-tion, it is hard to realize the fascinthe city street possesses for any shild who has spent much time in have been written on the theme of the great street and its influence on the humanity passing through it. The average child has a much more powerful imagination than the average man, an imagination more resembling that of the writer, though of course, less controlled and more chaotic. To the continually renewed enchantment. He joins 'de gang' as a knight of old might

"The pity of it is that the gang leaders are, inevitably, the wisest, brightest, strongest little person-alities, the boys who, in other surroundings, would lead their classes and captain the football eleven.

"It is their environment, and only their environment, which turns them into embryo criminais. The children of the glums who are living at all after the age of five are literally the survival of the fittest.

Only the Strong Escape Death. 'In the struggle they have been o nelled to wage physically against the conditions surrounding them. Only the strong, indeed only the unusually strong,

"The boy to be found on the streets of the east side up to the age of fourteen is, on the average, quicker and brighter in body and mind than your little brother or mine. If he can only be surrounded by the right instead of the wrong influences at this formation period he will develop into the most desirable of citizens. On the other hand, if he is left to go his own gait to the age of adolescence, he is almost sure to turn into a confirmed crim-

"But are not the various charitable ganizations reaching these willdren?"

"Not with any degree of success," said Mr. Williams, gravely. "I shall never forget the case of Christian Ensen. He was a small boy of fourteen who was sent to the Juscuite Asylum during my elemention with it. He had been the ismate of I don't know how nany institutions. He had a father, but that individual disclaimed all power to manage him. He was a confirmed igarette fiend, a clever pickponket and a pyromanian in the bargein. We could not keep him at the asylum, for he would have thought nothing of setting fire to it, with all the boys asieep. "His gase was brong in the before tares judges. My off and snowber ren-

esentative of the author were present Eight Men Couldn't Decide. There were also two officers from Crosts to Children, And there was the

THE TENDERLOIN

Committee of Fourteen, and assisted by its secretary, J. H. Hook, who pointed out the men for whom warrants tors, acted as such or managers. had been traued, Inspector Daly and a dozen men late last night descended on a number of Tenderloin resorts and took ten prisoners.

berated for one hour what to do with Assistant District-Attorney Reynolds one small boy-and then we couldn't also took an active part in the raids. decide. He was finally sent to the El-mira Reformatory and is now a con-firmed criminal.

The raids followed a two months' in-

What had we done to him between us? Simply batted him back and forth between one organization and affother, and effected no particle of good to him.

The raids followed a two months in vestigation by the Committee, assisted by three detectives from Deputy Commissioner Flynn's staff.

About 11 o'clock two patrol wagons.

or to society."

"How do you think such children Daly and his men scattered around in

That is the opinion of a man who certainly knows a great deal about children, He is Mornay Williams, chairman of the New York State Child Labor Committee, for years President or the New York Juvenile Asylum, and an earnest worker in many other philanthropic organizations having to do with boys and girls. The other night Mr. Williams talked to the New Social ideal Forum about "Better Children," and yesterday I asked him for more particulars on the subject.

"First of all, we have got to make up our minds to the fact that children are not born bad," he announced emphatically. "We have get to get rid of the old Puritan idea of natural depraying." Course, there are a very few seeming exceptions, as in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of Jasse Pomeroy, the Massachusetts bey seminal, convicted of such head in the case of the cas

West Twenty-ninth street, for alleged liquor tax violation, was held in \$1,500, and Harry Casper and Joseph Eirgal of the Saratoga, in Sixth avenue, "in

The matter of fixing the ball was left by Magistrate House to the Assistant District-Attorney. G. H. Goldsmith, who appeared for all the men except Webb, asked that low ball be fixed and seem surprised, as did the prisoners, when Magistrate House agreed to hold the men in the ball Mr. Reynolds

Counsel for the prisoners said that most of them were only waiters, but the Assistant District-Atterney said the investigations of the formultee of Fourteen showed that the inco, while long as they shield the actual proprie-

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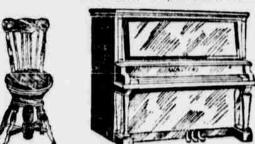
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